

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 7, 2005 (BOS Mtg. 7/19/05)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Virginia Cooperative Extension/ Annual Memorandum of Understanding

As the Board may recall, the County has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Cooperative Extension that provides for the operation of the York County Unit. The County has an established procedure wherein this Agreement is reviewed annually. The annual service plan is developed jointly by the County's Community Services Director and the Extension Unit Coordinator. The objective is to fully integrate the Extension Unit into a continuum of comprehensive services available to County citizens. Coordination continues throughout the year and is reflected in joint projects, staff meeting participation and other forms of regular interaction. This planning and implementation process prevents duplication of effort and assures that Extension activities extend and enhance County programs.

The County's Virginia Cooperative Extension Unit offers a wide array of services ranging from youth activities to horticultural guidance that protects our wetlands and greater environment. County staff considers the 4H functions to be extremely important. These mesh well with various other County programs and provide an important element in our efforts to assure a comprehensive array of activities for County youth. This is particularly critical for middle school ages - those who are too old for baby-sitters, too young for work permits and without productive use of leisure time can often be at-risk for various behavioral problems. Further, in addition to direct services, this cooperative arrangement allows access to a broader network of technical information and resources through Virginia's Land Grant University System at both VPI and Virginia State University.

The State fully funds a secretarial position. However, salaries for Extension Agents are funded by a cooperative formula shared by Federal, State and Local governments. Generally this is at the rate of 33.33% for each level of government. The Board of Supervisors considers the financial contribution to Extension during the County's regular budget cycle. Decisions made at that time substantially define the extent to which services can be provided during the upcoming fiscal year and become the basis for the support specified in the annual Memorandum of Understanding. The Board approved funding in the FY2006 budget in the amount of \$66,650. The Memorandum of Understanding reflects that amount and includes cooperative local, state and federal cost sharing for the two agent positions - the Unit Coordinator who is also the agent for Agriculture/Horticulture and the 4-H agent. In addition, office space is provided as an in-kind contribution.

Recommendation

These activities enhance and extend rather than duplicate County programs. The County's investment of space and \$66,650 is a relatively small portion of the overall budget for Extension programs and returns significant benefits for County citizens.

I recommend the adoption of Resolution R05-126.

Smith/4111

Attachments

- Proposed Memorandum of Understanding
- Proposed Resolution R05-126